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Northern Lambda Nord

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NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD COMMUNIQUE

Volume III: No. 2

February 1982

▼ SYMPOSIUM NOTES by H.H. ▼

At the second planning meeting for this year's Maine Symposium (Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium IX), there were four representatives from NLN; two hitch-hiked down to Orono on Friday and the other delegates drove in to the Saturday afternoon meeting just as we were about to start at 1:00 in the Memorial Union on the campus of the University of Maine at Orono. Much was accomplished by the men and womyn there.

The theme of this year's Symposium (which will also host the 2nd Annual New England Conference of Lesbians and Gays) is "Working Together". All activities will take place on the Orono Campus at the Student Union. The college will be on vacation that weekend (March 26, 27, & 28, 1982), so we will pretty much have the facilities to ourselves. Fees for the Symposium were set at \$5, \$7.50, and \$10; this is so that there will be a price corresponding to your income. All fees are very reasonable, considering what you will get. The registration fee will entitle you to go to a day full of workshops, a dance on both Friday and Saturday nights, a spaghetti supper and play on Saturday night, and continental breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings. You will also be housed out of the goodness of our hosts' hearts. Not bad. These fees help defray costs of putting on the conference, and any profits go into an account for next year's Symposium.

Some policies were set for the weekend, such as no smoking in workshops. If you must smoke, you can go out in the hall and puff to your heart's content. There will be no drinking in workshops, hallways, or at the dance. Not everybody is of drinking age (and alcoholism is a problem in the gay-lesbian community). If you wish to imbibe, you may go to the Bear's Den in the basement of the Memorial Union where they sell beer and wine. Smoking will be allowed in the dances on Friday and Saturday nights. The Wilde-Stein Club (of UMO) plays a mean set of dance music, so come ready to shake your legs!

Registration begins at 5pm on Friday at the Student Union (Mem. Union), and the dance will start at 8pm. There will be a coffee house and movies being shown at the same time if you don't want to dance. It will be a great time to

meet the people that will come from all over New England and the Maritimes for the weekend. You will have to get your own supper on Friday evening. There is a cafeteria that sells palatable food in the Union, so you don't have to go into Orono if you choose not to. It is a five-minute car ride into town, or about a walk of half an hour. There are about three restaurants in Orono: Pat's (pizza), Barstan's, and other places which you will no doubt find in the booklet that is being put together for the conference.

Sarah and Gail will take care of housing if you don't pre-register. PLEASE TRY AND REGISTER BY MARCH FIRST!!! so it is easier on the people in Orono. Childcare will be provided during workshops if needed (free of charge).

Saturday will begin at 9am with coffee and tea and probably some delicious sticky buns, until 10am, which is when the opening session starts. At noon, we will break for lunch until 1pm. There will be three workshop sessions in the afternoon, until 5:30. There will be a 15-minute break between each workshop. At 6pm, supper will be served. The menu will include either meat or meatless sauce for your spaghetti, green salads, breads, etcetera. During supper, starting at 7pm, the Gay People's Alliance of Portland will be presenting a play ("Gays of Our Lives"). At 9pm, the dance will begin. There will be films shown if you don't care to dance. The dance winds down at 1am. Sunday morning will get started at 9 until 10 -- with more of those great buns...and/or church services if you care to attend. Probably Dignity will do a service? Starting at 10am, the men will have a wrap-up session, and the womyn will have their's, and at 11am we will join one another for a final wrap-up and goodbye. By 1pm, hopefully everyone will be **gayly** on their way, and the Wilde-Stein people can start to recover.

A pre-registration form for the Symposium IX/Conference 2 weekend is enclosed in NLN member's newsletters. Please send it in today. To register: Symposium IX/Conference 2, Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04473.

(Editor's note: at press time, last minute financial hassle at Orono has necessitated cancellation of the Saturday night spaghetti supper -- you'll have to eat out -- but don't let that stop you from attending!!!) ▼

▼ TO GO OR NOT TO GO -- an article by H.H. ▼

Many of my gay friends must be thinking, as we approach Maine's 9th annual Lesbian-Gay Symposium, what do I want to

go to that thing for? Am I right? Probably. Well, for many reasons, and as a gay man who has been to quite a few, I would like to share some of the things you could expect to do or find at a conference for homosexual men and womyn. There will be many different types of persons there, of all different ages, lifestyles, and experiences. There will be many workshops that you can go to to listen or to participate in. Conferences are not orgies. They are more like camping trips with a huge, close beautiful family. There will be lots of time for you to meet and talk with people you would never meet otherwise. You will have your eyes opened to ways of seeing that you never realized existed. There will be dancing and merrymaking both evenings. You will be put up in someone's home...so there's excitement too. You will be accepted as you are, however that may be. This year's theme is "Working Together". I feel it is very important that as many people as possible from NLN attend, because I think that as a group, we all work together very well. We have a very strong group in this very large state. The rest of the state has noticed it. You should all attend the Symposium as proud members of the organization that we have. It is not expensive to go to the Symposium: \$5, \$7.50, or \$10 is no more than a couple of six-packs would be. Rides to Orono can be arranged, down and back. The more people that go, the cheaper it will be. Simple. Beautiful. An experience that you will remember for the rest of your life. Please try to go. Be proud. Be yourself. Alive. At ease. ▼

▼ SNOW SCULPTURE!!! ▼ by H.H.

(This article was written before the judging, Feb. 14, '82.)

This past month, a hardy bunch of "lambs" has been in the pasture in front of the police station in beautiful downtown Caribou, Maine. Through wind, sleet, snow, and temperatures that would make dry ice seem warm, they have been diligently piling snow shovel upon snow shovel of the nasty stuff we can't seem to get rid of. If all goes well, our base will soon be ready to top with a huge pyramid.

The theme of this year's Winter Carnival is "Life. Be in it." This disgustingly limiting, unartistic theme came to us from Australia via Loring Air Force Base. Why, I haven't figured out yet. In order to be judged in the snow sculpture contest, you must incorporate the sad little cartoon figures which accompany the recreational campaign from Australia. So in order to have our winning sculpture judged, we will be carving bas reliefs of the little buggars on the base of the piece. But we will be carving

gay buggars. The womyn figures will be with other womyn, and the male characters will be with other men, unlike the heterosexual cartoons that are so assininely limiting to any truly creative endeavors one might undertake with the versatile medium of snow. The pyramid on top will be representative of our Pink Triangle. If anyone can figure out how to color ice, please come forward and help. Judging is at 3 o'clock on Valentine's Day, and we hope that you will all be there to see us accept the winning trophy. We still need your help in construction. We usually work in the early evening and will be there on the weekend prior to judging, working in haste. Please help. ▽

▽ SNOW SCULPTURE part 2, by benj. ▽

Well, it's finished. NLN's first entry into the snow sculpture competition at this year's Winter Carnival in Caribou -- it was the largest one in town -- and I think the most creative. Over 20 feet on a side and 12 feet high, it loomed over the corner of Main and High Streets (and it will probably be there until mid-summer!).



Decorated in black and pink and topped by a pink heart for Valentine's Day, the sculpture was a virtual catacombs with an inner chamber in which you could stand. On the inner walls were written the names of lesbians and gaymen in history -- Queen Christina of Sweden, King James VI of England, Paul Verlaine, Gertrude Stein, Walt Whitman, Bessie Smith, Harvey Milk, to name a few. On the side pillars were pink triangles and in black on the front, NAN, all in relief. Those stupid cartoon characters, which were part of this year's theme, were on a frieze around the top. The roof was pink brick and at the corners of the base were pink and black stripes. It did not win first place. Just wait until next year.

When the judges visited the sculpture, they did not even want to talk to those of us who were there. They therefore were totally ignorant of the significance of the symbolism and names on the sculpture. The rest of the sculptures in town were very small, cartoon characters.

Thanks go to Jonathan, Reta, Walter, Dick, Laura, Phil, Mike, Maurice, and Donat for all the hard work and ice cold hands and leaking hoses and back-breaking shoveling and commitment to the snow sculpture.

Ideas are being solicited NOW for next year's sculpture (while it's still fresh in your mind). You've seen what can be done. We will be even MORE impressive in '83!! Some of us are talking about joining the Winter Carnival Committee to make sure they don't have such a dumb theme again!

A reminder: we're planning to enter the 'roostook River Raft Race in July. It will be much more comfortable in the warmth of summer working on our prize-winning raft. If anyone has knowledge of floating rafts/boats/navigation, we can use ideas for building a light, sturdy raft. ▽▽▽

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Le troisième symposium québécois sur les homosexualités se tiendra au Cégep de Maisonneuve à Montréal les 3 et 4 avril 1982. Il est organisé par le Service d'éducation et de consultation sur l'homosexualité (S.E.C.H.).

Thèmes abordés: Les hommes mariés, homosexuels; Les sports; transsexualité; prostitution des mineurs; pédérastie; la politique et les gais; la police; alcoolisme; les voyages gais; la Commission des droits de la personne du Québec; l'intervention psychologique et sociale; les services sociaux vs les gais et lesbiennes; l'intervention auprès des adolescents/tes; médecine et homosexualité; nouveaux contacts; la créativité; bisexualité; thérapies sexuelles avec les gais; divorce et homosexualité; le monde de "l'effacement"; handicaps et homosexualité; l'identité sexuelle; le développement de l'orientation sexuelle; condition masculine; le ghetto gai; les fantasmes homosexuels; l'homophobie; couples homosexuels; les gais en affaire; féminisme et homosexualité.

Toutes les activités sont ouvertes à quiconque s'intéresse de près ou de loin, en spécialité ou en profane, au vécu homosexuel dans notre société.

L'inscription: Les tarifs sont établis de façon à tenir compte de la réalité économique de chacun. De plus, ceux et celles qui s'inscrivent tôt à l'avance bénéficieront d'escomptes avantageux. L'inscription régulière demeure au même taux que l'an dernier. Nous avons prévu deux catégories de tarifs: A et B.

Catégorie A: Inclut toute personne qui étudie, chôme, est assistée sociale, handicapée ou du troisième âge. La personne devra fournir une preuve acceptable de son statut. Les étudiants/tes devront fournir une preuve d'inscription (temps complet) de l'institution fréquente, reconnue par le MEQ.

1^{er} fév. 82 jusqu'au 2 avril .. \$45.

Catégorie B: Toute autre personne (inscription régulière)

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Pour plus d'information, écrivez à: S.E.C.H., CP 245, succ. N, Montréal H2X 3M4. Téléphone 514/523-9463 (9h à 21h) ▲